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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 0 OF 03 CONAKRY 000007

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E.O. 12958: DEC: 01/03/2018  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [ELAB](#) [KHUM](#) [KDEM](#) [PREL](#)  
SUBJECT: DISCORD BETWEEN PM AND PRESIDENT INCREASES  
POLITICAL TENSION

REF: A. CONAKRY 0004 B. CONAKRY 0005

Classified By: POL/ECON CHEF SHANNON CAZEAU FOR REASON 1.4 (B) AND (D)

¶1. (C) SUMMARY. Political tension in Guinea appears to have intensified over the last few days. Reports of strained relations between the president and the prime minister, rumors of Conte possibly dismissing Kouyate, and union leaders saying that they are considering resuming nationwide labor strikes have contributed to increased political activity on all fronts. Rumors abound and it has been difficult to substantiate reports. Although Guinea's political situation is fragile, the actual facts and events may not be quite as dramatic as contacts suggest. Embassy will continue to monitor and analyze the situation. END SUMMARY.

¶2. C) Over the last 72 hours, there have been a number of significant political developments in Guinea the import of which are not yet clear. Based on information supplied by contacts, Embassy reports the following sequence of events:

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TIMELINE OF RECENT EVENTS  
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¶3. (U) December 31: The PM and his cabinet visited President Conte at his home to wish him a happy new year. During a nationally televised broadcast, President Conte made several comments about Kouyate's administration, which have been open to widely different interpretation.

¶4. (SBU) January 1: An internet news site (ainata.com) posted a speech allegedly written by President Conte. The speech was highly critical of the Kouyate administration and suggested to some contacts that Conte may be planning to dismiss the PM.

¶5. (U) January 2: The PM convened a Council of Ministers meeting, which resulted in the release of an official communique around 8:00 PM. The communique publicly stated that the restructuring decree recently signed by President Conte (ref:tel A) had been altered. Furthermore, the Council stated that it would consider the January 27 records and the March 14 Decree appointing the prime minister as its official guidance from the presidency, thereby suggesting that the government planned to ignore the restructuring decree. In the communique, the government also denounced the January 1 speech reportedly written by the president saying that it was not a legitimate document and that the president had not actually written it.

¶6. (U) January 2: At around 10:30 PM, President Conte, reportedly angry over the PM's communique, summoned the PM and his cabinet to his residence for a meeting.

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WHAT EOPLE ARE SAYING

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¶7. ( ) The above mentioned events have spawned numerous rumors throughout the capital, at all levels of sciety. One contact reported that the President ay have signed a decree late in the evening of Jnuary 2 stripping the PM of his powers as head of government. Other contacts suggest that the president will likely dismiss Kouyate in the coming weeks. Some contacts say that the president,s speech must have been written by one of his inner circle, possibly Secretary General Sam Soumah, without the president,s

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knowledge, as a mechanism for generating political unrest. Other contacts suggest that such a stirring of the pot, is very much in character for Conte and that he may very well be attempting to mix things up.

¶8. (SBU) Civil society and political party leaders planned to meet independently late on January 3 to discuss the political situation. Individual unions also met late on January 3, in preparation for a broader union meeting, under the leadership of Unions-Intersyndicale, planned for January ¶4.

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PM SAYS EVERYTHING IS FINE  
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¶9. (C) During a brief telephone conversation with the Ambassador, Prime Minister Kouyate said that everything is fine, but then asked to meet with the Ambassador privately on January 4. (COMMENT ) The PM did not sound as confident as he usually does. END COMMENT).